

English Lit 12: April 25th

Restoration, Samuel Pepys, and Coffeehouses

Silent Reading (10 mins)

Introduction to the Restoration and the Coffee House (10 mins)

- 1660-1798
- Political leaders sought to establish society on a firm basis, and a time when dislike of change became a guiding principle. They wanted to keep things the way they were. Hence "Restoration" or "restorative"
- During the Restoration, London suffered two major disasters– the Plague (1665) and the Great Fire (1666)
- England at the start of the eighteenth century was a small and traditional country, with London as the main centre.

Coffee Houses

- Middle class found its ideal social centre in what were coffeehouses.
- Coffeehouses offered the same services to professional and middle-class Londoners that clubs did later, and still do.
- City men– financiers, merchants, shipowners met at Lloyds coffeehouse, and writers generally met Will's coffeehouse.
- At the coffee houses, news would be gathered and exchanged, some business conducted, and politics shared. There might also be discussions of religion, philosophy, literature, domestic and foreign affairs, as well as a good deal of pleasant or malicious gossip.
- Result was the coffeehouse creating bringing together the middle and upper sections of English society, which was a benefit to writers and literature.
- Also helped to create a feeling that this closely knit and articulate society represented a new but enduring civilization, not unlike civilizations like the Greeks and Romans.
- Civilization belonged only to persons of some position, wealth, and influence; the common people were still a long way outside it.
- If you were fortunate enough, you could settle down into the best of all worlds.
- Will's is mentioned repeatedly in the diary of Samuel Pepys, who first dropped in on the evening of 3 February 1663/4: "where Dryden the poet, I knew at Cambridge, and all the wits of the town, and Harris the player and Mr. Hoole of our College. And, had I time then, or could at other times, it will be good coming thither, for there, I perceive, is very witty and pleasant discourse".
- Where would you go to participate in these items today?
- What happens in coffee houses today? What about things like Public Salons? Pecha Kucha?
 - Pecha Kucha: A typical Pecha Kucha Night includes 8 to 14 presentations. The presenters (and much of the audience) are usually from the design, architecture, photography, art and creative fields, but also from academia.[10] Most presenters are design professionals showing their creative work, but presenters often speak about such topics as their travels, research projects, student projects, hobbies, collections, or other interests.

Introduction to the Diary of Samuel Pepys (10 mins)

- How do we keep up with information today?
 - Look for different forms of media
- How do you think they would have kept information back then?

- Has anyone ever kept a diary? What kinds of things do you keep in a diary
- What are some forms of diaries we have today?

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703)

- Son of a tailor, worked hard to build up a fortune and make a name for himself in the British Navy.
- Now, Pepys had quite the library of books, which he left to his friends at Cambridge University. In the library were 6 volumes of what appeared to be a secret code (Pepys had used short hand) and it was not until 1818 that someone had discovered the code, and in 1825, Pepys diaries were published.
- Clearly, the diary was something that was meant to be private. However, there is some insight that perhaps Pepys had meant for his diary to be found one day.
- Given the rank of Pepys in society, his diary gives an interesting glimpse into life during the restoration period.

Reading Pepys (10 mins)

- Coronation fo Charles II
- The London Fire

Analyzing his work: (25 mins)

- 1) What evidence can you find in the Diary sections that we read that Pepys was businesslike, efficient, and was focused on the well being of the community? Use examples from the text.
- 2) In his writings, Pepys mentions several people who are present at the events he attends. Do you think that this adds to the authenticity of his writings?
- 3) Do you think that when we recall events today, that we have a balance of what happens versus who is there with us?
- 4) Based on what we know about the coffeehouses during the restoration period, why is it important that members of society get together?

Time to work on picture books (15 mins)

- Students will work on assignment due next week.

/10

Name: _____

Date: _____

Samuel Pepys and the Restoration- Literature 12

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- 3) Do you think that when we recall events today, that we have a balance of what happens versus who is there with us?

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- 4) Based on what we know about the coffeehouses during the restoration period, why is it important that members of society get together?

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